Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1836

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GW

SUBJECT: PROPOSED MEETING OF BUNDESTAGE COUNCIL OF

ELDERS IN BERLIN

REF: 75 BONN 20862

1. DER TAGESSPIEGEL CARRIES REPORT JANUARY 1 THAT
CDU BUNDESTAG MEMBER JUERGEN WOHLRABE, WHO WAS ORIGINATOR
OF 1974 PRESSURE FOR MEETING OF BUNDESTAG PRESIDIUM
AND COUNCIL OF ELDERS IN BEICHSTAG, HAS AGAIN CALLED
ON FRAU RENGER TO CONVENE ONE OR BOTH BODIES IN BERLIN
DURING 1976. WOHLRABE, WHO ALSO URGED SPD AND FDP TO
MATCH CDU'S RECENT PRACTICE OF HOLDING FRUKTION MEETINGS
AT LEAST TWICE A YEAR IN BERLIN, NOTED NEITHER PRESIDIUM
NOR COUNCIL OF ELDERS HAS MET HERE SINCE 1970.

2. CONCERNING QUESTIONS OF ALLIED POSITION ON MEETING OF PRESIDIUM OR COUNCIL OF ELDERS, WE HAVE LITTLE TO ADD TO THOROUGH ANALYSIS REFTEL. SINCE THESE BODIES, CONFIDENTIAL

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REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE COMMITTEES,

ARE CLEARLY NEITHER PLENARY SESSIONS OF BUNDESTAG, NOR SIMULTANEOUS MEETINGS OF TWO OR MORE FRAKTIONS, THEIR MEETINGS ARE NOT FORBIDDEN BY QA WHICH RESTRICTS ONLY ABOVE TWO BUNDESTAG ACTIVITIES. THEIR LEGAL RIGHT TO CONVENE HERE IS THUS A SOLID ONE. BASIC PROBLEM IS ONE OF POLITICAL TIMING. WE WOULD SUSPECT THAT PRESENT IS ABOUT AS GOOD A TIME AS EVER FOR SUCH A MEETING. THERE ARE NO SPECIAL FOUR POWER DISTURBANCES GOING ON, AND NOT OUITE ENOUGH TIME HAS PASSED SINCE BODIES WERE LAST HERE TO CONSTITUTE AN ATROPHY OF A RIGHT. WHILE WE WOULD AGREE THAT THERE MAY BE NOTHING CONCRETE "IN IT FOR BERLIN" IF THESE BODIES WERE AGAIN TO CONVENE IN REICHSTAG, MORAL FACTORS ARE HIGHLY IMPORTANT, PARTICULARLY NEGATIVE IMPLICATION ALWAYS SENSITIVE BERLINERS ARE QUICK TO DRAW IF IT APPEARS THAT ALLIES ARE TAKING OVERLY RESTRICTIVE VIEW OF HITHERTO LEGITIMATE MANIFESTATIONS OF BONN-BERLIN TIES. SOVIET PROTEST, IF IT COMES, SHOULD NOT CARRY EVEN MINIMAL RISK OF ESCALATING BEYOND SIMPLE EXCHANGE AS IT MIGHT IF ISSUE CONCERNED. FOR EXAMPLE, TANGIBLE NEW PERMANENT FRG PRESENCE. **GEORGE**

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Message Attributes

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